*Speak* Part 1

1. Analyze Melinda’s reaction to the first day of high school and why her fears seem more intense than that of others.  Analyze why she says, “I am Outcast.” What does this really mean?

1. Examine the meanings of the “clans” and the prevalence of high school cliques.  Why do we sometimes not like people who are really good at things, like sports, music, art, or school?  Is this fair?  Are adults like this?

1. Discuss the “first ten lies they tell you in high school.”  Compare with your first day.  So you think Melinda’s assumption that they are “lies” is valid?

1. Examine Melinda’s characterization of the teachers.  What do these descriptions reflect?

1. Discuss Mr. Freeman’s approach to teaching art.  Have you had similar experiences in classes with this type of teaching style?

1. Discuss Melinda’s home life.  How does communication break down in Melinda’s family?  What could each person do to improve it?  If you were a parent, how would communication be in your family?

1. Discuss the interaction between Melinda and Heather.  Are they friends?  What brings them together?

1. Are we sometimes different people on the outside than we are in the inside?  How?  Why is this true, do you think?